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Alumni Association



Arnold B. Gardner, left, UB President William R. Greiner and State Senator Dale M. Volker '66

UB Law Alumni Honor Gardner, Volker

By Steven G. Cox '96

Alumni of the UB Law School gathered Saturday, Oct. 22, to bestow upon SUNY Trustee Arnold B. Gardner and State Sen. Dale M. Volker '66 the Law School and the Law Alumni Association's highest honor: the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award.

Some 200 area attorneys, jurists, law faculty and students gathered in the atrium of the Center for the Arts to attend the Jaeckle Award Luncheon, which capped off the 19th Annual UB Law Alumni Convocation. Earlier that morning, the audience had been treated to a detailed discussion of the state's new domestic violence laws by their author, State Sen. Stephen M. Saland, and a distinguished panel of local experts.

Gardner, a senior partner in the Buffalo law firm of Kavinoky & Cook, was recognized for his legal work and his years of commitment to public education and social justice. He served briefly as president of the Buffalo School

Board and has been a member of the State University Board of Trustees for 14 years, now serving as vice chairman of the board. A graduate of UB and Harvard Law School, Gardner becomes the first recipient of the Jaeckle Award not to have been a graduate or former dean of the UB Law School.

Acting Dean Thomas E. Headrick recalled fondly an opinion article Gardner had written in *The Buffalo News*, placing the Shakespearean line "First, let's kill all the lawyers" in context.

"The line, from *Henry VI*, was spoken by Dick the Butcher, surely Shakespeare's most gruesome character ever, Arnold wrote," said Headrick. "He also called for the release of all the prisoners. You see, his motive for killing all the lawyers was to prolong the anarchy and keep them from restoring law and order, which he knew they would."

UB President William R. Greiner, in presenting Gardner with his award, commended him as not only an outstanding lawyer, but for his dedicated service to SUNY. "Being a trustee of the state university," said Greiner, "is

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one of the toughest volunteer jobs in the country."

Volker, a member of the UB Law Class of '66, was elected to the State Assembly in 1972 and won a special election to his current State Senate seat in 1975. A former police officer in the village of Depew, Volker is known for his knowledge of criminal justice issues and has annually led the fight in Albany to restore New York's death penalty. He is chairman of the Senate Codes Committee. This year, Volker and his Senate colleague John Daly secured a \$260,000 appropriation for the Law School to begin implementation of its curriculum.

Introducing Volker as his one-time colleague and mentor, former State Sen. John B. Sheffer II, now a UB Law professor, proclaimed that "few events will affect this region as dramatically as the day Dale Volker decides to leave public service."

Volker said he was "extremely humbled" by the award. Gaining his first taste of political office when he was elected Student Bar Association President at UB in 1966, Volker was seeking his 11th term in the State Senate.

The late Edwin F. Jaeckle was the first recipient, in 1976, of the alumni award that now bears his name. A graduate of the UB Law School, he was a founding partner of the Buffalo law firm Jaeckle, Fleischmann and Mugel and was instrumental in negotiating the merger of the then-private University of Buffalo into the state university system.

Jaeckle was a state and national leader of the Republican party in the 1940s and '50s. He served as Erie County Republican Party chairman, then as state party chair when Thomas E. Dewey was elected governor. "He once explained to me," recalled Gardner, "how Dewey would have beaten Truman if he had just shaved off that darn mustache." ■

Justice Denman Receives Capen Award

In a way, life came full circle for the Hon. M. Dolores Denman when she received the Samuel P. Capen Award, the highest honor the University bestows.

"I remember serving on committees 20 years ago that selected Capen Award winners, and I never thought that I'd be the recipient. It makes me very proud," the jurist said.

The 1994 award, recognizing "extraordinary service to the University and its alumni," was presented to Justice Denman by UB President William R. Greiner at a ceremony on May 5.

She was nominated by the University at Buffalo School of Law, which noted in their nomination letter, "She makes us look good in countless ways."

A 1965 graduate of the Law School, she is the presiding justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, of the New York State Supreme Court. A past president of the UB Law Alumni Association, she is a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee and serves as a judge for the Law School's annual Desmond Moot Court competition. In 1993, she was named Jurist of the Year by the Bar Association of Erie County. In accepting the award, Justice Denman said: "I will always think of this University as a great teaching university, because from my perspective that was the great gift that I received from this University."



"As an undergraduate, I had the privilege of being taught by some of the great faculty members who were pre-eminent in their respective fields at the time." She cited John Horton and Julius Pratt in History, Marvin Farber in Philosophy, and Henry Ten Eyck and Oscar Silverman in English. "These were great, great professors," she said.

"I learned so much from them, and from them got some of the threads that formed the fabric of my life, my values, my perspective. They have made my life richer and certainly shaped my approach to life and to my work. I'm very grateful to the University for what I learned here."

In closing, she introduced what she called "my court family" — in attendance were the entire appellate division of justices over whom she presides. ■

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